



## ISDH, Dr. Wilson recognized for accomplishments

State Health Commissioner Greg Wilson, M.D. recently accepted an award on behalf of the Indiana State Department of Health for Distinguished Service to State Government from the National Governors Association (NGA).

Dr. Wilson was one of three state officials from across the nation who received an Award for Distinguished Service to State Government during the NGA's annual meeting held in Indianapolis in August.

This award recognizes the State Health Commissioner and ISDH staff for their accomplishments made in the last two years, including the immunization registry, CHIRP; chronic disease initiatives like cancer, diabetes, and asthma; and bioterrorism response planning.

"Not only should we congratulate the staff of the Indiana State Department of Health on this award, but also Melanie Bella and the staff of the Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning for the development of Indiana's Chronic Disease Management Program," said Dr. Wilson.

Governor Frank O'Bannon said, "Although you will find numerous awards,

citations, and honors detailing Dr. Wilson's accomplishments, I can think of no better way to sum up his service to state government and Hoosiers than this: Indiana is a better place to live and stay healthy because of Dr. Wilson."

"The ISDH has recently faced many difficult challenges, but through our staff's creative approaches and determined commitment, we have made significant progress in many programs while maintaining excellent core public health services," said Dr. Wilson.

The NGA noted that the ISDH has implemented a public health preparedness and bioterrorism response plan; developed the Indiana Cancer Consortium and a statewide asthma coalition; implemented a state minority health plan and a statewide immunization registry; and continues to work to promote and support community health centers in rural and historically underserved communities.



State Health Commissioner Greg Wilson, M.D. receives the NGA State Government Award from Indiana Governor Frank O'Bannon and Kentucky Governor Paul E. Patton, NGA Chairman.

"During the last several years, the state has experienced the emergence of anthrax and other bioterrorism threats, West Nile virus concerns, and the recent SARS outbreak, Hoosiers have become much more knowledgeable and appreciative of the important role that the ISDH plays in maintaining the quality of life in the state," said Dr. Wilson.

### Recent ISDH staff and program awards

◆ The ISDH Fluoridation Program, which serves more than 4 million Hoosiers, was recognized at the National Oral Health Conference in April 2003 by the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors, the CDC, and the American Dental Association for excellence in community water fluoridation. Indiana's Fluoridation Program was one of only five states awarded a State Fluoridation Quality Award.

◆ Jeanne Ziegler, Indiana Veterans' Home, was recognized, by the American Legion as IVH Employee of the Year, during the Legion's annual "state day" at the IVH, on June 8, 2003. The recognition was based on her outstanding support of the residents.

◆ Valerie Brock, Indiana Veterans' Home, received the "2003 Woman of the Year" award from the Tippecanoe County Business and Professional Women's Association.

◆ Carol Ott, Indiana Veterans' Home, authored the "Long Term Care" chapter in the 21st edition of the Remington: The Science and Practice of Pharmacy text. Carol also earned the designation of Board Certified Psychiatric Pharmacist from the Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties' rigorous process. This is pharmacy's highest credential in the practice of psychiatric pharmacy.

◆ Elizabeth Hamilton-Byrd, M.D., Epidemiology, received a certificate in recognition of service on the CAIR subcommittee (NAACCR).

◆ Roberta Denman, Human Resources, received the Up & Coming Compliance Coordinator award on June 5, 2003 from David Bryant, Deputy Director of State Personnel. This award is for affirmative action officers who have made strides in completing their affirmative action plans on time with no errors.

◆ An abstract prepared by the Mid-America Public Health Training Center (MAPHTC) received a second-place award from the Public Health Foundation, on behalf of the Council on Linkages. This award will be shared jointly by the I.U. School of Medicine and ISDH.

◆ ISDH won the 2002 Silver Award for Excellence in Public Health Communication for Internet Home Pages from the National Public Health Information Coalition.

◆ The Immunization Program received two awards from the CDC's National Immunization Program in 2002:

▶ One was presented "In recognition of your extraordinary achievement of increasing your immunization coverage by 6.3% for the basic immunization series among two year old children."

▶ The second award, the Third Annual AFIX Award, was "For your outstanding effort in promoting and implementing the Immunization Assessment Feedback Incentive and eXchange (AFIX) strategy in your state."

# Immunizations part of getting ready for school

**B**uy clothes. Get a haircut. Buy school supplies. Get shots.

Yep, school's starting, and school nurses around the state are checking to make sure that the eager beavers starting the new school year have all of the immunizations required by state law.

According to Michael Runau, director of the [Indiana State Department of Health immunization program](#), the law determines the immunizations required, and then the State Department of Health, in conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), determines the number of doses and spacing between doses.

**"T**hen we put it in layman's terms and get the information out so parents, school nurses, and health care providers can see and read those schedules," Runau said.

A packet of information, which includes the immunization schedule and forms to return to ISDH, is put together. This information is available on the ISDH web site. The packet is also mailed to those who

may not have internet access, such as the Amish communities.

The forms that detail the number of children who have been immunized are due back to ISDH by November 1. From there, the information is compiled, formatted, and the resulting data published.

By law, children must have the required immunizations by the first day of school. According to Runau, the school may give parents a maximum 20-day exemption. After the 20 days, the child can be told not to return to school until he or she has the required shots.

The purpose of the immunization law is to prevent vaccine preventable diseases," Runau said.

He added that although in the United



Photo by Daniel Axler

Michael Runau

States there are many diseases, such as measles and diphtheria, that have been greatly reduced, and polio, which has been eradicated, there are still places in the world with those diseases.

"We in the United States are fortunate that we have eradicated many diseases, but they haven't been eradicated from the world," he said. "We live in a global society, so there is always the chance for diseases to spread if the populace is not immunized."

**T**hanks to the Web-based CHIRP (Children & Hoosiers Immunization Registry Program), school nurses can check easily to see if a child has had the required immunizations in case the parents forget to bring the records.

The school nurses, who have read-only access to the immunization registry, can print the child's immunization record out for the parents and say, "This is what your child has, and this is what's needed," Runau said.

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## Public Health Summit to provide foundation for State Health Plan

**"W**hat kind of health care system do we want in Indiana?"

That's the question that 150 participants in the Public Health Summit scheduled for Friday, October 10 will help answer. The Summit will be an intensive working session of health professionals, business leaders, educators, government officials, and policy makers to lay the foundation for a "user friendly" State Health Plan for Indiana.

Individuals to be invited to the Summit will include a broad spectrum of local communities and state leaders, representing all 10 public health preparedness districts.

The Medicine and Public Health initiative, which is an effort to bring medicine and public health together and has been ongoing since 1997, is partnering with ISDH to organize the Summit and formulate the State Health Plan.

The morning session will include presentations from State Health Commissioner Greg Wilson, M.D. on the state of health in Indiana, and from American Public Health Association Executive Director Georges Benjamin, M.D. on the benefits of a state health plan.

A unique aspect of the morning session will allow participants to respond electronically through the Adult Response System (ARS) to questions posed. Those in the audience might be asked to respond to statements like "My community's health care center meets all the needs of the underserved. Yes or No." or "My community has adequate access for all

individuals. Yes or No." The answers, which will be immediately displayed on an electronic board, will offer insight into the health care knowledge or perception base of the invited professionals.

**I**n the afternoon, there will be five breakout sessions for intensive discussion and plan development. Participants will have the opportunity to select one breakout topic, based on their areas of interest:

- ◆ Access to quality health care;
- ◆ Education and community-based programs;
- ◆ Public health infrastructure;
- ◆ Child and adolescent health promotion; or
- ◆ Determinants of health/personal health management;

Kathy Weaver, R.N., who is director of policy for ISDH, said, "A state health plan is important, because it helps keep everybody focused and provides direction. Our goal is to have the state health plan written and in place by February 2004."

Groundwork for the Summit was done in October and November 2002 when health forums were held in the 10 public health preparedness districts. The counties invited a variety of community leaders to hear a presentation by Dr. Wilson on the state of health in Indiana and to offer input in small groups about what a state health plan should include.

**W**eaver said that The Healthy People 2010 initiative has been a guide for the state health plan. She said the new State Health Plan will encompass all areas of health, and be a guide and resource for businesses, educators, nonprofit organizations, communities, and individuals. The plan may include such diverse areas as the creation of walking trails and promotion of healthy eating habits in elementary schools.

During the next month, there will also be two presentations to ISDH staff, to solicit their input into the content of the State Health Plan.



### Indiana State Department of Health *Express*

The *Indiana State Department of Health Express* is a bi-weekly publication for ISDH employees and stakeholders. Words in blue are links that you can access directly if you read the *Express* on-line. To submit news items, call (317) 234-2817 or send information to: ISDH Express, Office of Public Affairs, 2 N. Meridian St., Section 6G, Indianapolis, IN 46204-3003. Inquiries should be directed to:

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Ed Norris checks the temperature of the grilled chicken at the Indiana State Poultry Association booth. Diane Fisher, communications director for the organization, looks on.



Mitch Sever of Nelson's Catering can grill plenty of half chickens on this oversize cooker at the Indiana State Poultry Association booth.



## At the Fair



Just take a look down the State Fair grounds and what do you see? Corn dogs, hamburgers, chicken, turkey, elephant ears, corn on the cob, barbeque, deep fried Twinkies, French fries, sati babi, lemonade, Wisconsin cheese, pizza ... the list could go on and on.

And it's up to the [Indiana State Department of Health Food Protection Division](#) to make sure that the thousands of people attending the Indiana State Fair get safe and sanitary fair food. Ed Norris, ISDH food specialist, and his five-person crew were there day and night to inspect more than 200 food operations during the two-week run of the fair.

The visits were not scheduled and Ed or one of his helpers could show up at any time of any day at any booth, or even as exhibitors handed out free samples. Norris said they look for cleanliness of operation, performance of equipment, protection from contamination, personal hygiene, and physical layout. They also look to see that food is not exposed to the elements or "what might fly over," that utensils are cleaned and sanitized on a regular basis, that the service people are not touching ready-to-eat food with their bare hands, that sick employees are prevented from handling food, and that coolers are keeping things cool and the warmers keeping things warm.

"Most vendors do a good job," Norris said. He added that before the fair opened vendors were required to attend a two-hour training session on food safety, fair security, and fire codes.

Others from Food Protection that had "fairground duty" were Ed Zglenicki, Paula Proctor, Michelle Glunt, Dan Miller, and Lee Bray. Margaret Voyles and Shirley Vargas added support from the office. Scott Gilliam is manager of Food Protection.

Bill and Jane Walls of Indianapolis stop by the [Rural Health Association](#) booth. Janet Chorpenning, chief nurse consultant in the [ISDH Local Liaison Office](#), and Bob Sunman, director of the Department of Rural Health, answer questions and hand out information.



Seven-year-old Timothy Felton of Indianapolis spins the wheel at the WhiteLies booth and hopes for a good prize. Dad, Tim Felton, offers encouragement.



Fair photos by  
Daniel Axler



# Employee Incentive Committee looking for new members



Photo by Daniel Axler

Employees gather 'round a table laden with goodies prepared by ISDH staff. The Taste of ISDH was a project of the Employee Incentive Committee. What would **you** like to see next?

**F**rom Valentines to food, the Employee Incentive Committee has made an impact at the State Health Department. The committee, made up of volunteer staff from a variety of departments, is charged with helping to raise the morale of agency employees.

Co-chair Marc LoCascio, ITS, says the committee, which was formed in 2001, has graduated from "baby steps" to "making

larger strides" and is almost ready to start "running." The committee is in no way limited in size and is looking to re-charge itself by seeking new members.

The committee, a think tank for ideas and action, has sponsored the "Year End Bash," oversized Valentine cards to state institution residents, Valentine "goody bags" for all ISDH staff, agency holiday decorations, Taste of ISDH, and the Open Houses that showcased the various departments.

The committee is looking for new blood, new ideas, and wide-open minds.

**I**t's an opportunity to serve your fellow workers," LoCascio said. He said the committee needs a diverse representation of staff for it to be the most effective, noting that what might improve morale in one area might not do the job in another area.

The Employee Incentive Committee also has the strong support of Dr. Wilson and the E-Staff. Deputy Commissioner Liz

Carroll is the other co-chair of the committee, stepping in when Michael Hurst, former deputy commissioner, left the health department.

"This committee and the service it performs are important to the well-being, energy, and comfort of those at ISDH. I'm excited to be on the committee. It's a great opportunity to serve the committed staff we have here," Carroll said.

**T**he next meeting of the committee will be Thursday, September 11, at 11 a.m. in conference room 8A. All are welcome to attend the meeting to see if it is something they would like to do.

LoCascio noted that a person needs supervisor approval to be on the committee because there are some time commitments that will be needed throughout the year. Supervisors are also invited to the Sept. 11 meeting to see what it's all about and to determine if any of their staff should be involved.

Currently, the committee is focusing on plans for the "Year End Bash."

If you are interested, or might be interested, in joining the committee or want more information, contact LoCascio at 3-7512 or send him an e-mail.

## IMMUNIZATIONS

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Local health departments can receive vaccines free from the State Department of Health thanks to a couple of federal programs. Vaccines for Children (VFC) requires participants to meet certain income requirements or have no insurance or insurance that does not cover an immunization.

**T**he second source of vaccine is through the 317 Fund, which is a limited dollar amount restricted by the age of the child. The health departments offer the vaccines to those eligible free of charge or for a small administrative fee.

Runau said about 800 private providers, especially those who have a high percentage of Medicaid patients, high risk populations, or serve minority populations, also are enrolled as VFC providers.

To help kids get the shots they need to start school, many local health departments sponsor special programs before the start of the school year. The Vigo County Health Department helped sponsor Super Shot Saturday in August.

"It was a community-wide effort," said Louise Anderson, R.N., who is director of operations and the nursing division at the Vigo County Health Department. She said the special day was a cooperative venture of

the Indiana State University Sycamore Nursing Center, St. Ann Clinic, Terre Haute Regional Hospital, Union Hospital Health Group, and Vigo County Health Department Well Child Clinic. Since the program began in 1994, approximately 3,900 children have been immunized on Super Shot Saturdays. Immunizations were given at various locations in Terre Haute, including the YWCA, Hyte Community Center, and Landsbaum Center for Health Education. The health department clinic also has extended its hours to meet the "last minute beginning-of-school rush."

They plan to repeat Super Shot Saturday in October.

The Johnson County Health Department also made a push to help get youngsters immunized for the start of school. Louise Brinkman, R.N., nursing division director, said the local health department has for several years provided a walk-in clinic for sixth graders and adolescents in June and August. She said some 300 children were immunized and nearly 600 shots were given this year.

"Those numbers are a lot more than in previous years," Brinkman noted, speculating that the economy was a large reason for the increase.

## HIPAA Corner

The compliance deadline for the privacy rule of the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act has passed. The emphasis of the Office of HIPAA Compliance now shifts to the October 16 deadline for the transaction and code sets rule. By this deadline, the Office of HIPAA Compliance will have adopted nationally recognized electronic format and code sets for certain health-related financial and administrative activities.

To educate local health departments about HIPAA compliance standards, Chris Mickens, director of the Office of HIPAA Compliance; Patrick Hadley, privacy officer; and Burton Garten, staff attorney, held training sessions in Jasper, Indianapolis, and Chesterton for the local health departments in those regions.

Lynn Maitlen, R.N., Dubois County Health Department director of nursing, said the Jasper training session went well, and the question and answer session helped the participants "zero in" on specific concerns.

— Contributed by Lisa Mani, ISDH privacy coordinator